

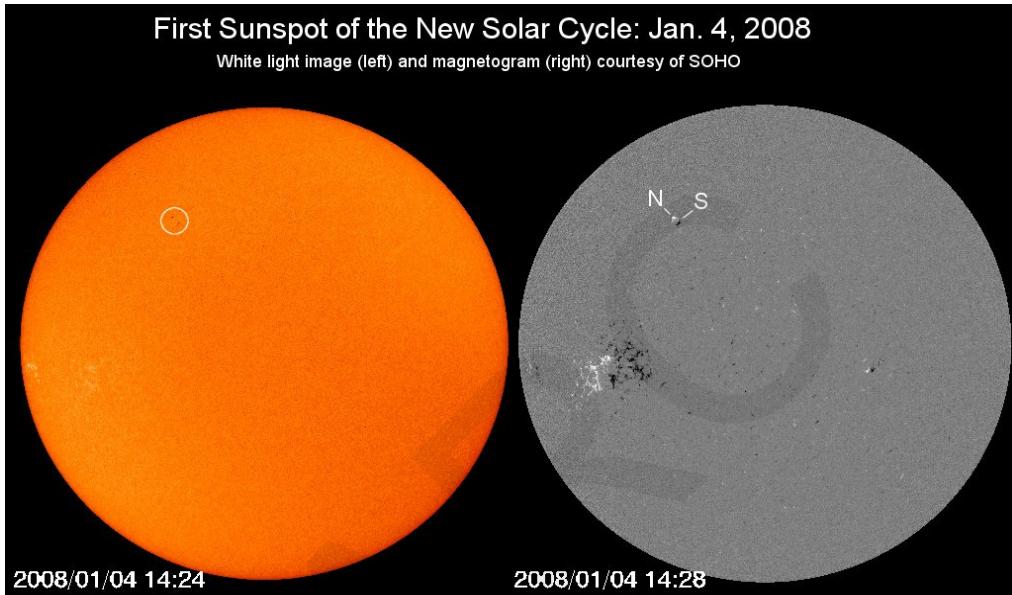


Wooooohooooo! It's Started

Thanks to
Jim VE3UA

First Sunspot of the New Solar Cycle: Jan. 4, 2008

White light image (left) and magnetogram (right) courtesy of SOHO



Prez Sez

Well first let me wish you all the best in 2008.

I hope you come to the next meeting as we are having Mr. John Barch from Thunder Bay Telephone who will give a short talk on Cellular Telephone. Should be a great talk so don't miss it.

I hope you have still been thinking about last months talk on emergency preparedness and making up a go kit. I haven't got mine yet but I am eyeing various plastic containers for their suitability. Make sure you have one ready.

Also as part of your personal commitment to being ready, have you installed the Anderson Power Pole connectors on all your HF and VHF DC connections? Remember if you are called out and bring your own radio gear you may not be able to access power easily. I will have them for sale again at the January meeting for \$2 per set.

The other thing you should be thinking about is the Annual Dinner Meeting next month, February 16 at the Slovak Legion starting at 1800 hours. We will be having a guest speaker from LU Paleontology Dept. who will describe how they identified the remains of WW1 soldiers recently discovered in France. Please contact Bob, VE3RVA for tickets at \$25 per person.

The final bit of news is that RAC has a new president, Dave VE3AAQ assumed the position on January 1. That move made the position of Regional Director Ontario North/East open. I was appointed by the Board of Directors and from January 1 to December 31 I will be the Director. So be prepared to be bugged about joining RAC and I will try to keep you updated on RAC events. Also if you have any comments or ideas for RAC please let me know as well.

73's
Bill VE3XT

LARC SENATE
Keith Fiske VE3JQ
Pat Doherty VE3PD
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

President
Bill Unger VE3XT 344-1848
Vice-President
Bob Hansen VE3RVA 767-6924
Secretary
Terry Stewardson VA3LU 577-9439
Treasurer
Joe Coghlan VE3TBX 344-6566
Directors
Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628
Randy Gottfred VA3OJ 474-0910
Mike Nawrocki VE3ZG 767-1714
Brian Bolt VE3BCQ
Past President
Terry Stewardson VA3LU 577-9439

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ARES District Emergency Coordinator
VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789
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VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628
CANWARN
VA3JMS John 767-3631
VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628
Public Service Events
VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628
VA3JMS John 767-3631
Amateur Radio
Accredited Examiner
VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789
lesnick@tbaytel.net

The Little Thunder QRP Group will be participating in the **Freeze Your B*^%\$'s Off** contest. Its on Saturday Feb 2 from 1400 to 2400Z (0900 to 1900 EST). We will probably start off with breakfast at the Blue Parrot and then head out to the little park on the north side of Boulevard Lake (White Pine Park?) Breakfast is at 10 ish and we just move on from there. Always a good time and the **MOBILE SOUP KITCHEN** delivers hot chili and buns at 1PM. Hope to see a good turn out. Give me a call if your interested.
Bill VE3XT

WEB BITS

Canadian Cell Tower locations

http://www.ertyu.orgsteven_nikkelcancellsites.html?lat=49.000000&lng=-97.000000&zoom=4&type=m

Emergency Minnesota Amateur Radio Disaster Data Network

<http://www.14567.org/>

The Quiet Zone

http://www.pbs.org/kcet/wiredscience/video/308-the_quiet_zone.html

http://www.pbs.org/kcet/wiredscience/story/105-the_quiet_zone.html

Digital Voice

<http://www.hamradio-dv.org/>

What Time is it Really?

http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2007/12/time_hackers

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE

I just spoke with Brian Nicholls VE3UKX / G0TTU and he tells me that he is coming to Canada for another visit. He, and his wife, will be in the Thunder Bay area for a couple of weeks starting around May 5th. I'm sure there will be some interesting coffee meets and other social events. Brian is from the Norfolk (Kings Lynn) area of England. See the photo on page six.

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 145.490 (-600) (100.0 Hz)

442.075 (+5 MHz)

144.390 APRS

VE3BGA (Hillcrest H.S.) 145.450 (-600) (IRLP Node VA3LU 123.0 Hz)

442.825 (+5 MHz) (100.0 Hz)

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

STUFF FOR SALE

Ham Station \$ 500.00

1 40 Meter Dipole

2 Keyers

1 Power Supply (Tentec)

1 Desk Mike

1 SWR Meter (Tentec)

1 HF Transceiver (Tentec) Model 560C0RSA1R

I am selling for a Ham Friend who lives in Fl at this time, but i have it here at my place in Iron River, Mi.

1-906-265-4900 darsmith@myvine.com

Tnx Donald WD8KQF

Old Acquaintances

This afternoon I was very surprised by a visit from Jason Hammond VE3JZN.

Now with the OPP he works out of the Kenora detachment and was in the city for a holiday break.

Jason extends the warmest season's greetings to members of the LARC.

Jim VE3UA

31st Annual Sibley Ski Tour

will take place on Saturday, March 1, 2008 and for the 31st consecutive year, the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club will provide communications. This is the most challenging public service event that we participate in which includes six check points, the 20/50km split, start/finish line, supply truck and net control. I already have some volunteers, but more are needed. If you can help out, please contact Norm Bell (577-9316).

By the way, there is a volunteer recognition day the following week complete with t-shirts and door prizes.

in memoriam

Brandon WANAKAMIK

<http://tbay.ok.bc.ca/stories.php?id=81842>

Sam VA3SAM... we are sorry for your loss

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Treasurers Report

Opening Balance - Dec. 8/07	\$5,846.32
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INCOME

Memberships	\$140.00
50/50 Draw	\$5.50
Bank Interest	\$0.05
Total Income	\$145.55

EXPENSES

Thunder Bay Telephone	\$48.03
Bank Service Fees	\$0.50
Annual Dinner - ticket printing	\$11.40
ARES - Connectors	\$129.96
Total Expenses	\$189.89

Closing Balance - Jan. 5/08	\$5,801.98
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Joe Coghlan - VE3TBX
Treasurer

**and don't forget our dinner date
the LARC ANNUAL DINNER
MEETING** Saturday, February 16, 2008 at the Slovak Legion in the SunRoom. at 1800 hours. For tickets see Bill VE3XT, Mike VE3ZG, Joe VE3TBX and Bob VE3RVA. or at the January meeting. \$25.00 per person.

and

The Lakehead Military Museum is looking for donations of communication equipment from the First, Second or Korean Wars. If you have any and are willing to donate to the Museum at the Armouries please contact Jack Young at (807) 683-8491. Any donations would be greatly appreciated to add to the Museum's collection.

GETTING STARTED

For many starting amateurs, antennas seem to be a mystery, although 99% of them are actually quite simple. Making antennas is pretty simple too. Rule One ... obey the laws of physics. Wire antennas for HF can be the simplest of all antennas. First, wire. What kind of wire? The kind that won't break when you hang it up in the trees. I usually opt for a cheap spool of 14/2 which is standard household wire. I strip out the three conductors and I leave the insulation on the wire. But, I'll use any wire that is sturdy enough, especially if it's free. The plastic insulation adds some strength and some capacitance too so the final antenna will be a little shorter than the math says it should be. Let's work through making a dipole antenna for one of my favourite bands 18.068 to 18.168 (17 meter band). I am going to pick a frequency near the centre of the band, say 18.118. Now, I want the wavelength for that frequency, which according to the laws of physics is 300 divided by 18.118 or 16.558 meters. I'm going to round it to 16.5 meters. The laws of physics also say that a resonant dipole should be **one half of the wavelength**, so now I know that my **total** antenna length is going to be around 16.5 divided by 2 or 8.25 meters. I also know that dipole antennas are made up of two sections, so each 1/4 wave section is going to be 4.125 meters long. Now I am going to cut two pieces of wire, each about 4.5 meters long. Why so long? I need some extra to wrap around at the ends. We need some more parts now. Namely two end insulators and a centre insulator. Yes, you can buy commercial insulators, but you can make them from any insulating material that is strong enough, like PVC plastic pipe or teflon block. If the chef in the family has one of those white plastic chopping blocks, one of those will supply enough material for lots of insulators. Insulators should be a couple of inches long and about an inch wide. Just drill a hole in each end big enough for the wire and rope to pass through. Round off any sharp edges with a file or sandpaper. Pass one of the wires through one of the holes in the centre insulator and wrap it around itself to secure it. Measure the 4.125 meters (or about 13.5 feet), insert the wire through the hole in the end insulator, wrap it around itself again. Repeat for the other end. Solder the centre conductor of your feed line (coax usually) to one side and the braid to the other side. I like to cover the electrical joints with Coax Seal which is a black putty-like stuff that hardens over the joint to seal out the weather and then wrap some black tape over it. I also secure the wire where it is wrapped around itself at the ends with tape too. Now ... hang it up somewhere high. Check to see if it is resonant on the band ... it should be close. Score bonus points if you can use a buddies antenna analyzer. If the resonant frequency (where the vswr is very low) is too high, the antenna is too short. If too low, the antenna is too long. Just adjust the length slightly until you are happy with the results. It can be suspended from both ends, or from the middle with the ends drooping down, in which case it is called an "inverted V". You can use rope or wire to hold it up. Some folks use rope and forego the end insulators because rope insulates anyway. Study the humble dipole well because it often is the basis of many of the more complicated antennas. .



January 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			<i>join the geeks for coffee at Boston on Arthur</i>			
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 <i>LARC Meeting</i>	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	<i>Feb 2nd Freeze Your B#@@s Off Contest contact VE3XT for details</i>	<i>Feb 16th LARC Annual Dinner at the Slovak \$25/person</i>	<i>March 1st Sibley Ski Tour Volunteers Needed</i>

LARC Meeting Minutes - December 2007

December 13

The meeting was called to order at 737PM and Randy, VA3OJ gave a presentation on preparing an ARES Go kit. This was followed by Fred, VE3FAL who gave a short demo and presentation on Anderson Power Pole Connectors. Both were excellent and lots of good info.

Bill, VE3XT asked that the financial report be accepted as printed in Hi Q which was moved by Randy, VE3OJ and seconded by Phil, VE3AXL. The motion was carried.

Then a motion was put forward that the minutes of the November meeting be accepted as stated in Hi Q. This was moved by Fred, VE3FAL and seconded by Clarence, VE3WCW. This was also accepted.

The ARES report was about the recent simulated emergency. Some lessons were learned and will be acted upon.

The repeater group mentioned a small problem with VE3YQT having a sensitivity issue. It will be investigated the next trip up the hill.

Under old business the Annual Dinner Meeting to be held on Saturday, February 15, at 1800 hours was mentioned. The cost is \$25 per person and Bob, VE3RVA can sell you a ticket.

In new business the antenna season was officially opened with a blast from Bill VE3XT using the horn made famous by the other Bill, VE3AJ (SK)

Phil, VE3AXL spoke on reviving the Thunder Bay Award. Unlike the past Thunder Bay award this one could be obtained by any mode and even using the internet to contact a certain number of locals. This is still pending.

Randy, VA3OJ suggests the 10 M repeater will be up and operating by mid December, with a Tx of 29.580 MHz and Rx on 29.680 MHz.

There was some discussion on an Amateur Radio course in 2008, but no firm action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Joe, VE3TBX and seconded by Fred, VE3FAL and then everyone headed to our favorite Pizza Place.

BRIAN NICHOLLS AND HIS WIFE



Sorry for the delay in getting HI-Q out
...some of our contributors were having
computer problems

